(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to prevent the smuggling of arms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Customs authorities have not detected any instance of smuggling of arms in the coastal area of Konkan during the last few months. However, the Customs authorities remain alert against smuggling activities including that of fire-arms. Close coordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned in the prevention and detection of smuggling.

Impact of new duty drawback schedule on exports

1183. SHI V. NARAYANASAMY: *Will the Minister of* FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's announcement of new Duty Drawback Schedule of 161 items to boost the exports have shown encouraging results; and

(b) if so, whether these conform to the desired level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The Duty Drawback Schedule announced on 1-6-1992 covers 353 items. Out of these the rates for 161 items have been increased.

It is too early to assess whether this enhancement of rates has resulted in increae in exports. The duty drawback scheme is not an export incentive as it only compensates the exporter for duties suffered on the inputs that have been used in the manufacture of the products exported. This is done to enable the exporters to compete in the international market without any disadvantage on account of duty on the inputs.

Seizure of Narcotics at Varanasi

1184. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gang of heroin smugglers was busted in Dashswamedh area of Varanasi and about 2.6 Kg. of heroin worth about Rs. 2.5 crores in international market was seized on or about June 9, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details of the gang and its *modus operandi* and the persons apprehended; and

(c) what is the total quantity of heroin seized by various Revenue and Enforcement authorities and agencies during the past three months, indicating the details of the major hauls of the drugs and narcotics seized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes Sir. 2.2 Kgs of heroin was seized on 7-6-1992. No precise valuation of heroin, which is often of indeterminate chemical strength and composition and is liable for destruction, is feasible.

(b) A gang comprising 11 criminals were indulging in purchase of heroin from Barabanki Distt. in U.P. and sell in retail to drug pushers of Varanasi. Out of these 11, nine were apprehended and two are absconding.

(c) Total quantity of heroin seized in India as per reports during the period April—June, 1992 is 391 Kgs.